CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising the steps of:
    monitoring, by a network access controller, data being transmitted from and received by a client system;
    receiving, in the network access controller, a request from the client system for a data service to be provided by a server system, the request being directed to the server system;
    determining if the client system is authorized for the data service;
    if the client system is authorized for the data service, then sending the request to the server system.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller monitors individual packets passing between the client and the server.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller identifies the request by analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system is pre-authorized for the data service.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system is authorized by for a data service by requesting authorization from a management system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the client system is authorized for a data service after a credit determination.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the user of the client is billed according to the specific data services authorized for the client system.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller discards any request from the client system which is not autrhorized.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing, in the network access controller, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client system.

1   10. A network access controller, having a least a processor and a memory, comprising:

2   means for monitoring data being transmitted from and received by a client system;

3   means for receiving a request from the client system for a data service to be provided by a

4   server system, the request being directed to the server system;

5   means for determining if the client system is authorized for the data service;

6   means for sending the request to the server system, if the client system is authorized for the

7   data service.

1   11. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller monitors

2   individual packets passing between the client and the server.

1   12. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller identifies

2   the request by analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.

1   13. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller determines

2   if the client system is pre-authorized for the data service.

1   14. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller determines

2   if the client system is authorized by for a data service by requesting authorization from a

3   management system.

1   15. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the client system is authorized for a data

2   service after a credit determination.

1   16. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the user of the client is billed according

2   to the specific data services authorized for the client system.

1   17. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller discards

2   any request from the client system which is not authorized.

1   18. The network access controller of claim 10, further comprising means for storing, in the

2   network access controller, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client

3   system.